

REMARKS

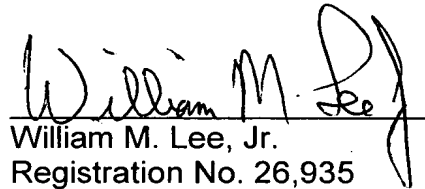
The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency from the application, as well as reduce the number of claims before entering the national phase in the United States. Should any multiple dependent claims remain, that is unintended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation of the national filing fee for the United States.

The International Preliminary Examination Report reaches the conclusion that the claims meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (nonobviousness). It is submitted that the same result should occur in the United States.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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